

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00632 121749Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130186 121752Z /43
O O 121737Z JAN 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4718
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
USDEL MC BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00632

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MARR, MASS, NATO, GW, US
SUBJECT: TANK GUN QUESTION: URGENT REQUEST FROM
DEFENSE MINISTRY

REFS: A) BONN 0589 DTG 121437Z JAN 78
B) BONN 21120 DTG 211735Z DEC 77 (NOTAL)
1. DURING THE NEW ODC CHIEF'S FIRST CALL ON STATE
SECRETARY SCHNELL OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY (FMOD) ON
JANUARY 12, SCHNELL RELAYED A "PERSONAL REQUEST" FROM
MINISTER LEBER THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT:

A. INFORM THE FMOD WHETHER IT IS TRUE, AS REPORTED
IN THE JANUARY 12 ISSUE OF "DIE WELT" (REF A) THAT THE
GERMAN TANK GUN PROVED TO BE SUPERIOR IN THE RECENT
SHOOTING COMPETITION; AND
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B. PROVIDE THE DETAILED RESULTS OF THE SHOOTING TEST
TO THE FMOD.

2. SCHNELL REQUESTED THAT WE PROVIDE BOTH OF THE ABOVE
AT OPENING OF BUSINESS, GERMAN TIME, TOMORROW, JANUARY
13. SCHNELL SAYS THE FMOD ANTICIPATES THAT THERE WILL

BE QUESTIONS ON THE "DIE WELT" STORY AT THE FMOD PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW MORNING, AND THAT MINISTER LEBER WANTS THE PRESS SPOKESMAN TO BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THEM.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT URGENTLY PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO THE FMOD REQUEST.

4. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND WASHINGTON OF THE AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE (REF B) ON THE NEED TO INFORM THE GERMANS OF THE TANK GUN DECISION BEFORE IT IS MADE PUBLIC. FOR THE OBVIOUS POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS, IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF THE GERMANS FIRST LEARNED OF THE DECISION VIA THE PUBLIC MEDIA.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
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Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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